

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 04597 011112Z
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 DODE-00
INSE-00 CIAE-00 AID-05 L-03 SCS-03 /039 W
-----011251 089470 /43

R 011030Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9709
INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4597
CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, VS, TW
SUBJ: FRENCH EVACUATION FLIGHTS FROM SAIGON

REF: A) BANGKOK 193 (B) BANGKOK 2473 C) BANGKOK A-48 (ALL NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AN AMERICAN DEPENDENT DEPARTED SAIGON FEB 24 AFTER
PAYING BRIBE. SHE NOTED THAT, DESPITE COMMUNIST APPREHENSIONS,
NO HOSTILE INCIDENTS OCCURRED THERE AT TET. MORE TAIWANESE
ARE EXPECTED TO DEPART VIET-NAM IN COMING MONTHS, AND A NUMBER
OF CHINESE ARE GOING TO FRANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. BECAUSE OF TET CELEBRATION, THERE WERE ONLY THREE FRENCH
FLIGHTS FROM SAIGON DURING MONTH OF FEBRUARY. PASSENGERS IN-
CLUDED 131 FRENCH, 95 VIETNAMESE, 56 CHINESE, 3 CAMBODIANS,
AND 8 KOREANS, AN AVERAGE OF 98 PASSENGERS PER FLIGHT ON
PLANE WITH CAPACITY OF APPROXIMATELY 120.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 04597 011112Z

2. PASSENGER ON FEB 24 FLIGHT WAS MRS. KIM TCHONG SAU
JUDSON, WIFE OF AMCIT. CONSULATE HAS BEEN PURSUING HER CASE
WITH FRENCH DURING MUCH OF THE PAST YEAR. OF INTEREST ARE
STEPS INVOLVED BEFORE SHE COULD DEPART. MRS. JUDSON
REGISTERED WITH IMMIGRATION AS A FOREIGNER (SHE WAS BORN
IN CHINA) IN SUMMER 1975. A LETTER FROM SENATOR MCGOVERN

TO THEN PRG FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN THI BINH IN JUNE 1976 ON HER BEHALF APPARENTLY RESULTED IN VISIT OF SECURITY OFFICIALS TO HER HOME FOLLOWING MONTH. SEEMINGLY FOLLOWING RENEWED FRENCH INQUIRY TO VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS IN SEPTEMBER, SHE WAS ASKED TO COME TO IMMIGRATION OFFICE AND BEGIN CLEARANCE PROCEDURES. UNBEKNOWN TO HER AT THE TIME, SHE WAS ISSUED EXIT VISA ON SEPT 18. MRS. JUDSON THEN VISITED IMMIGRATION OFFICE WEEKLY FROM THAT TIME UNTIL HER DEPARTURE, ALWAYS TOLD THAT NO DEPENDENTS OF AMERICANS COULD DEPART. FINALLY, SHE LEARNED IN EARLY FEBRUARY THAT ONLY HOLD-UP HAD BEEN HER FAILURE TO BRIBE IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS. SHE MADE PAYMENT OF APPROXIMATELY \$1,000 IN COMBINATION OF GOLD AND U.S. DOLLARS AND DEPARTED SHORTLY AFTERWARDS (HER STORY APPEARS TO BE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF SEVERAL OTHER DEPARTED SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIVES OF AMCITS, REPORTED REFS A AND B.)

3. IN HER COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN SAIGON, MRS. JUDSON NOTED THAT CHOLON WAS FULL OF TALK LAST MONTH OF APPEARANCE OF LEAFLETS PRINTED IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, ADVISING OF IMPENDING RETURN OF THE "OLD GOVERNMENT" AT TET. DESPITE CONSIDERABLE TENSION IN THE CITY AT TET ON PART OF AUTHORITIES, THERE WERE NO INCIDENCES OF RESISTANCE, TO HER KNOWLEDGE. SHE KNEW OF NO ARRESTS OCCURRING JUST PRIOR TO TET BUT NOTED THAT CHINESE BUSINESSMEN CONTINUE TO DISAPPEAR AND ARE APPARENTLY IMPRISONED. PEOPLE ARE STILL LEAVING THE CITY TO GO TO NEW ECONOMIC AREAS, ALTHOUGH WITH FINANCIAL AND OTHER PERSUASION RATHER THAN AT THE POINT OF A GUN (WITH MANY OF THOSE PERSONS OFTEN SNEAKING BACK INTO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 04597 011112Z

SAIGON). AS IN OTHER URBAN AREAS, CHOLON RESIDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO "CONTRIBUTE" LABOR FOR PERIODS OF ONE TO TWO WEEKS FROM TIME TO TIME, WORKING OUTSIDE THE CITY ON DRAINAGE, ROAD CONSTRUCTION, OR OTHER PROJECTS. THE RICE AVAILABLE ON RATION AT THE STATE STORES REMAINS (AS IT HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME) OF VERY POOR QUALITY AND IN INSUFFICIENT QUANTITY, NO ONE KNOWING WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE COUNTRY'S GOOD QUALITY RICE.

4. ROC REP IN BANGKOK (UNDER COVER OF CHINA AIRLINES) ESTIMATED IN CONVERSATION FEB 28 THAT HUNDREDS OF CHINESE WHO HAVE THE RIGHT TO RESETTLE IN TAIWAN REMAIN IN VIETNAM. A NUMBER ALREADY HAVE EXIT VISAS BUT BANGK AND OTHER CLEARANCES (AND, PRESUMABLY, SHAKEDOWNS) ARE DELAYING DEPARTURES. HE EXPECTS THERE WILL BE A "FOOD FLOW" OF TAIWANESE IN COMING MONTHS. PERHAPS 14 PASSENGERS ON THE FEBRUARY FRENCH FLIGHTS WERE TAIWANESE. SOURCE OBSERVED THAT FRANCE IS CURRENTLY TAKING NUMBER OF CHINESE. FOR EXAMPLE, 18 OR 19 CHINESE LISTED ON FEB 3 FLIGHT AND 11

OF 11 ON FEB 24 FLIGHT WENT TO PARIS.

5. ASKED ABOUT REPORT THAT SOME CHOLON CHINESE ARE TRYING TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO DEPART FOR PRC (REF C), HE SAID HE HAD HEARD SOME VAGUE RUMORS TO THIS EFFECT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT RTG HAS HALTED TRANSIT HERE OF SINO-LAO DEPARTING FOR LAOS FOR PRC SINCE LATE 1976, AND HE SAID HE SAW NO POSSIBILITY THAI WOULD GRANT PERMISSION TO SINO-VIETNAMESE TO DO SO, EITHER.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL STABILITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO04597
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770070-0145
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703107/aaaadqjh.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 711128ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BANGKOK 193, 77 BANGKOK 2473, 77 BANGKOK A-48
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2955625
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH EVACUATION FLIGHTS FROM SAIGON
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, PINT, VS, TW
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/711128ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009